

WOMAN AND HOME.

WEDDING CAKE BOXES.

The Latest Styles and Materials for These Popular Souvenirs.

The origin of the custom of taking home a gift of wedding cake to "dream on" is apparently without record, and yet the present fad of distributing pieces of the bride cake in dainty boxes is the outgrowth of the old-time superstition.

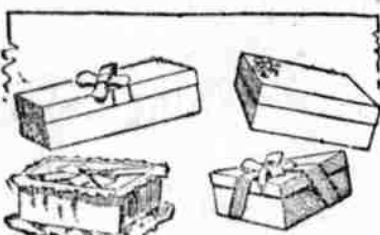
However, it is seldom "the" cake which is sent out in boxes, but that of an inferior quality, which possibly serves the purpose just as well in bringing "pleasing dreams and slumbers light" to those who place it beneath their pillows.

It is surprising to one uninitiated to know how varied are the styles, shapes and sizes of these souvenir wedding cake boxes. One leading manufacturer makes wedding cake boxes in fifteen styles and a half dozen or more sizes, which are sold from \$4 to \$40 a hundred.

The most popular style and those of which the greater number are sold are those at \$4.50 a hundred, which are plainly and simply made of moire paper, with a silver edge about the lid. The boxes are all hand made, with the greatest care, by women and girls, and if the slightest mar from paste or imperfection from rough edges is perceptible, after finishing, the box is cast out.

The more elaborate styles are made upon special orders, and sometimes are marvels of expensive beauty, perhaps by hand painting, by the stamping of a monogram in silver, and so on. For one wedding of recent date, the souvenir boxes were of white satin, hand painted, and cost \$180.

A novelty, really more dainty and attractive than the satin, is the Buedingen box, which is covered with fine crepe paper in white. The box opens like a casket, is either square or oblong and all round the cover is a tiny frill of the crepe paper. A narrow moire



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ribbon is fastened at opposite corners of the cover only, and ties in a full bow at the top, which obviates the necessity of untying the bow of ribbon every time the box is opened. The ribbons are put on almost entirely in this manner, so that the box may be preserved for a long while as a receptacle for jewels or trinkets on the dressing table. These crepe paper boxes cost \$13 a hundred and inside have a folder of heavy paper which protects the cake from greasing through the box. An ornamental edging of lace paper adds a tasteful finish to the inside.

Another dainty box, which requires no ribbon to enhance its attractions, is the one illustrated, with a cover decorated in silver. The box is square, and in one corner is a design in bowknuts, which unite "two hearts that beat as one." It is covered with watered paper and has a silver rim to the cover.

Many of the long and narrow boxes have a monogram stamped in one corner, in either gold or silver, showing the intertwined initials of the surmames of both bride and groom. The triangular box is novel, but less popular than the others, as it is rather difficult, as well as wasteful, to cut the cake to fit in it.

All of these shapes may be carried out in crepe paper, either with or without a frill about the cover. The center, as a rule, attends to the matter of the souvenir boxes, which relieves the household of one of the many duties which crowd in upon one's wedding day.—Ella Starr, in N. Y. Recorder.

German Christmas Cakes.

Into one quart of molasses (New Orleans is best) put a tablespoonful of black pepper, one of cinnamon, a teaspoonful of ground cloves and the grated rind of two oranges and one lemon. Let this stand a day. Then add flour enough to make rather a stiff dough, add about four teaspoonfuls of baking powder, which must be mixed with the flour, and a large spoonful of lard. Roll out the dough into long strips about as thick as your finger (working in more flour if too soft to roll), and with a sharp knife cut into pieces the size of a nut about half an inch long. Bake in a hot oven. Be careful not to put the nuts too close together in the pans or they will stick together. If they do, break them apart while hot.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Keep the Children Busy.

Teach children to do little things about the house. It trains them to be useful, not awkward, in later and more important affairs; it gives them occupation while they are small, and it really is an assistance to the mother in the end, although she always feels during the training period that it is much easier to do the thing herself than to show another how. This last excuse has done much to make selfish, unhandy members of an older society, and should be remembered, in its effects, by the mother while her little ones are beginning to learn all things, good and bad, at her knee. Occupation makes happiness, and occupation cannot be acquired too young.

Queen Victoria's Favorite Soup.

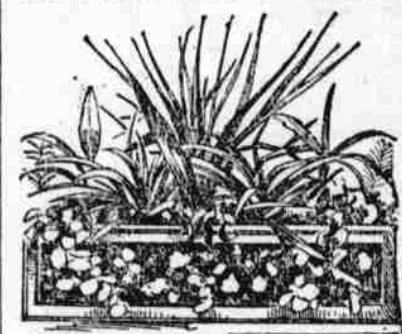
Queen Victoria is very fond of a soup made as follows: Take a half pound of Frankfort pearl barley and set it in a stew pan with three pints of veal stock. Simmer very gently for an hour and a half. Remove a third to another soup pot, rub the rest through a sieve, pour it to the whole barley, add half a pint of cream, season with a little salt, stir till hot, and serve. The recipe is given by one of the chefs of the royal kitchens.

TASTY WINDOW BOX.

An Excellent Way of Adorning the Living Room of a Home.

One of the most satisfactory methods of adorning the inside of our houses is by the use of suitable plants, and this is an especially suitable season to remind our lady readers of that, when the winter season is not far off. The window offers a convenient spot for a box with choice plants, and will greatly assist the appearance of the room.

The beautiful box here shown is known as the "Minton tile window box," and is made of Minton tiles, decorated in yellow, blue and white, under heavy glaze; substantial wooden mountings, natural dark finish; the interior is lined with zinc. The size is



A HANDSOME WINDOW BOX.

thirty-three inches long by nine inches wide and seven inches deep. The photograph was taken with plants in the box, and that helps to display its use. They are: One Dracena indivisa, two Dracena terminalis, two Athericum vittatum var., two Cocos Weddellii, two Asparagus tenuissimus, five Pellonia pulchra, the latter being the plant drooping down in front, and is extremely rich looking in contrast with the light colors of the box. This collection of plants, as is easily seen, makes an attractive box, and they are selected to withstand the temperature and peculiar atmospheric conditions of the ordinary living room, and would cost about \$4.00. For a fancy box, such as the Minton tile, we would not advise very common or mean-looking plants, they would be out of place; but it is not necessary that one should be without a window box if he cannot afford one or does not care to invest so much money in one as this would cost—the price is about \$5.00. With a saw, a hammer, a chisel, a few nails and lumber, a serviceable box can easily be made.

Get one-inch planed pine boards, free from knots, and put them together so as to make a box of the same size as the one described; or any size in length and width to suit your window, and paint it any desired color. Bore six half-inch augur holes in the bottom at equal distances and the box is ready for the plants. If it is desired to have it a little more fancy in style, procure half-inch black walnut trimmings and tack them at top, bottom and ends, so as to make it look like a panel. A splendid decoration is olivello of a tile or other pattern, cut to size and fastened on with the black walnut trimmings. A few geraniums, heliotropes, sweet allyssum, begonias and tropaeolums to droop over the edge will give a pretty effect. Such plants will grow easily, and can be procured at very little cost. A dozen plants should be enough, and any florist can supply them. If you have no soil, it would be better to get that also from the man who furnishes the plants. To give the collection a rich appearance it would be well to have one palm for the center of the box. The illustration is from a photograph kindly supplied by Messrs. P. Henderson & Co.—American Gardening.

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THE LOSS OF MILLIONS.

Disastrous Effects of the Wilson Sugar Trust Tariff Bill.

When the democratic party and the sugar trust enacted the sugar schedule of the Wilson tariff bill the measure destroyed the basis of reciprocity and would undo the great work of James G. Blaine.

Every day now brings news of some fresh example of the policy of retaliation which foreign nations are inaugurating against the United States. Already the American people is beginning to realize that the repeal of the reciprocity provision of the McKinley law and the Blaine agreements would injure the foreign trade of the United States millions and tens of millions of dollars annually.

The open protest of Germany, made at the time the sugar schedule of the Wilson bill was pending in the senate, was the first intimation of foreign displeasure. Secretary Carlisle transmitted the protest to the finance committee of that body, but the influence of the sugar trust with the democratic senators caused it to be ignored. Now Germany is prohibiting imports of American cattle and provisions, and insisting that her policy of retaliation against American products is justified, because the sugar schedule of the Wilson tariff law violates solemn treaty compacts entered into with her by the United States.

German influence has drawn Denmark into the policy of retaliation. France first indicated her intentions by shutting out American packers from all opportunity to compete for the contract to supply the army with provisions. Now France has followed Germany in putting an embargo on imports of cattle from America, on the pretext of pleuro-pneumonia in the animals.

Within a few days there have been strong intimations that the new Austrian minister, who has not yet even presented his credentials to the president, is charged to begin an attack upon this same sugar duty almost immediately; and if concessions cannot be secured, it is expected that Austria-Hungary probably will follow the example of Germany, France and Spain in retaliating upon the United States.

With the first of January, the great republic of Brazil, with which our export trade had doubled during three years of reciprocity, closed its ports to the admission of American products at the reduced rates formerly given.

Spain's damaging blow to American interests has been given in closing Cuban and Porto Rican ports to American breadstuffs in particular. A detailed statement of the exports to Cuba during the months of September, October and November of 1894, as compared with the same months during 1893, makes the shrinkage very plain. Taking the month of October in each year, the exports of flour shrank from 28,737 barrels to 4,631; of corn, from 62,360 bushels to 1,072; of lard from 3,031, 219 bushels to 799,421; of hams, from 477,261 pounds to 344,232; of bacon, from 540,720 to 269,463 pounds. The tables prepared by the exporters showing the extent of the discrimination against United States products under the maximum tariff recently imposed by Spain have satisfied the state department at Washington that there can be no opportunity for American trade unless these charges are abated. The great exporting houses of the Atlantic cities are clamoring at the doors of the state department, and threaten to appeal to congress for some speedy action to protect their business. They report that at present the United States is losing a trade of 700,000 barrels of flour per annum, all of our commerce in machinery, formerly purchased by the Cubans exclusively in the United States, all of the hardware and a large proportion of the potato trade—a very important part of our exports to the West Indies. The total reduction in our exports to Cuba for the year since the lapse of the reciprocity agreement will amount to not less than 50 per cent.

These are but fragmentary instances of the disaster which the Wilson tariff, by repealing the reciprocity provision of the McKinley act and the Blaine agreements, has brought to the farmers, manufacturers and exporters of the United States. They indicate a loss of millions of dollars, which will react upon American industry and ramify through all its departments, injuring labor and capital alike.

But what else was to be expected of the great democratic party that, at Chicago in 1892, denounced Blaine reciprocity as a "fraud" and in 1894, while following the dictates of the sugar trust, ruthlessly destroyed the great work of James G. Blaine in order that the sugar trust might rob American sugar consumers of millions of dollars and democratic senators line their pockets with gold acquired by Wall street speculation in the sugar trust's securities.—Albany Journal.

The administration has a tariff war on its hands, and it hardly knows what to do with it. Had the reciprocity system been continued it would know precisely how to handle it; but it threw away the weapon of defense which it held, and now it is shaking before the bulldozing undertaking of Germany and other countries. That it will submit is quite probable, and that the continental countries, even if the differential sugar should be repealed, will continue their differential war is also quite probable. All this comes of an incompetent congress and an incompetent administration.—Cincinnati Gazette.

It is perhaps not surprising that a democratic administration should break down all round in the more important functions of government, but it is rather strange that it cannot even gum a postage stamp correctly. The current stamps are the worst of their kind. They are not up to the standard in color and won't stick. This is what a nation gets which admits to power such an imbecile and at the same time such a flagitious party. It ought to be dipped in the gum arabic of its unsuccessful philatelic experiments and hung somewhere to dry.—N. Y. Tribune.

THE PRESENT CONGRESS.

No Prospect of Anything of Consequence Being Done.

Nothing good can be expected from congress during the rest of this session. It started wrong, and has been controlled by false notions from the first, and an overwhelming popular defeat does not seem to have brought out the best of democratic statesmen. Probably they will not dare to correct even the most obvious and grave deficiencies in the new tariff, because they apprehend that they may be plunged into interminable debate on that subject, and serious changes may possibly be favored by a majority in either house. The necessities of the treasury would receive attention, undoubtedly, but for the wildest banking scheme which blocks the way. It is questionable whether congress will get anything done that it ought to do, because this measure and the bill to provide for the collection of the income tax are in the way, and will be, as they ought to be, stubbornly resisted.

There are many who believe that the provisions of the income tax may be defeated, so that the tax itself may be rendered innocuous. Perhaps it is a little too much to expect. But it would be well for the country if the collection of this tax could be prevented. The tax is indecent and offensive at the best. It should never have been imposed. Probably this same congress would not have ventured to impose the income tax if it had not hoped for very different results from the election in the western and southern states. But in view of the decision of the people in those and other states, it is perhaps not too much to expect that members of congress may see their way to abandon a policy which has been so distinctly condemned.

There ought to be a general agreement among congressmen of both parties to reverse, as far as possible, the mischievous and dangerous action of the last session. The people have some right to be heard. There is no room to doubt the meaning of their verdict. They have decided that congress ought to go no further in the direction marked out by its action and its committees at the first session, and it is clearly their wish that its action should be as far as possible reversed.

There ought to be no feeling of hesitation on the part of the democratic majority to prevent ready submission to the will of the people in this matter. It is their government. The democratic has had ample opportunity to test its theories and has given such expression to its theories as it saw fit, and the people without hesitation condemn the course it has chosen thus far. As to the income tax, one thing at least is clear, that while it was expected to save the democratic party in western and southern states, it has entirely failed to strengthen it in that quarter, but has undoubtedly contributed largely to the defeat of the party in the eastern states. The best thing that could happen for the democratic party, it is probable, would be the failure to provide for collection of the income tax, so that the people may never come to feel this particular burden or realize its offensiveness.

It is too much to expect that congress will materially alter the revenue bill or give serious attention to the duties on sugar or to the tax on whisky. Whatever has been granted to the monopolies by means of these impositions will remain until a republican congress has opportunity to revise the revenue law. But it would be well if congress would make provision at once for raising money to meet the necessities of the government, and this it ought to do by providing for a popular loan at a low rate of interest. The dissolution of the bond syndicate makes it only too clear that the government will not be able to raise much money in future by appealing to the bankers and financiers of this and other countries, and if it does not provide means for raising money by direct appeal to the people, it is exceedingly likely to be embarrassed within the next year.—N. Y. Tribune.

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WHAT HE DID.

MISS GUSH—So your regiment was at the first battle of Bull Run, colonel? COLONEL FEERSE—It was, miss. MISS GUSH—How thrilling! You must tell me all about it. What did you do, colonel, when you saw with dismay that the day was lost? COLONEL FEERSE—What did I do, miss? Why, I—er—er—why, I did what the bull did.—Frank Leslie's Weekly